

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 FEA-02 TRSE-00 SCI-06 EB-11 SS-20 NSC-10

SSO-00 NSCE-00 L-03 CIAE-00 INR-10 NSAE-00 RSC-01

INRE-00 USIE-00 PRS-01 SPC-03 SAM-01 COME-00 CIEP-02

H-03 DODE-00 PM-07 DRC-01 /107 W

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O 082257Z FEB 74

FM AMEMBASSY OTTAWA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2700

C O N F I D E N T I A L OTTAWA 0409

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: CA, US, ENRG

SUBJECT: MITCHELL SHARP'S CALL ON THE SECRETARY SUNDAY

1. DIRECTOR USA OFFICE, EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (MACLELLAN) INFORMED POLITICAL COUNSELOR AFTERNOON, FEBRUARY 8, THAT AT HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY ON SUNDAY IN WASHINGTON, EXTAFF MINISTER MITCHELL SHARP WILL HAND THE SECRETARY "A PIECE OF PAPER" ADVISING HIM THAT THE CANADIAN EMBASSY WILL BE SENDING A NOTE TO THE DEPARTMENT PROPOSING BILATERAL TALKS BETWEEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS ON THE POTENTIAL PROBLEM POSED BY ANY FUTURE TRANSIT OF US SUPERTANKERS TRANSPORTING ALASKAN CRUDE TO CHERRY POINT REFINERIES IN PUGET SOUND.

2. MACLELLAN SAID SHARP HAD GIVEN ASSURANCES IN COMMONS LAST FALL AFTER HIS MEETING WITH THE SECRETARY AT THE UN THAT HE WOULD DISCUSS CHERRY POINT WHEN THE SECRETARY MADE HIS PROJECTED VISIT TO OTTAWA.

3. MACLELLAN WAS APPARENTLY REFERRING TO COMMONS QUESTION PERIOD ON OCTOBER 24 WHEN SHARP WAS ASKED ABOUT STATUS OF CANADIAN PROPOSAL THAT GOC SUPPLY CHERRY POINT OIL REQUIREMENTS. SHARP REPLIED THAT ENERGY MINISTER MAC-
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DONALD HAD MADE OFFER ON OCTOBER 23 TO GOVERNOR LOVE

AND THAT "UNITED STATES SAID IT WAS NOT AT ALL INTERESTED" (OTTAWA 2548, OCTOBER 25, 1973). SHARP WAS THEN ASKED FOR ASSURANCE THAT PROPOSAL BE GIVEN TOP PRIORITY "WHEN DR. KISSINGER VISITS THIS COUNTRY IN NOVEMBER." SHARP REPLIED, "IT IS ONE OF THE FIRST ITEMS ON OUR PROGRAM."

4. DEPARTMENT WILL RECALL THAT SINCE THEN CANADA ITSELF HAS SHARPLY INCREASED ITS OWN USE OF THESE WATERS BY SHIPPING CRUDE FROM VANCOUVER TO THE CANADIAN EAST COAST VIA THE PANAMA CANAL IN ORDER TO MAKE UP FOR A DECREASE IN MIDDLE EASTERN CRUDE. MOST OF THIS CRUDE HAS BEEN CARRIED IN CHARTERED TANKERS OF VARIOUS FLAGS, SIZES AND CONDITIONS. ONE NEW ELEMENT MAKING SITUATION MORE POIGNANT PERHAPS FOR GOC THAN EVER IS POSSIBILITY THAT AS MUCH AS 50 PERCENT (INSTEAD OF 13 PERCENT) OF ALASKAN CRUDE WILL GO TO CHERRY POINT NOW THAT US WILL NEED ALL OIL IT CAN GET.
JOHNSON

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Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
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Disposition Approved on Date:
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30 JUN 2005

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